

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 27**  
**INCIDENT NO. 99-009**  
**DATE: July 21, 1999      TIME: 4:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Storms and flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1,447.06 feet on July 21.

On July 15, rainfall of more than three inches struck the northern tier of Williams County, inundating a county road. A bridge located in Winner Township lost all of its riprap, resulting in severe erosion.

Ward County agricultural officials estimate that 145,200 acres of cropland were impacted during a July 13 storm. The county U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) board places percent of yield losses between 20 and 40 percent for wheat, barley, oats, sunflower and corn crops. Approximately \$1 million in damages occurred to land, \$100,000 to 10 farm homes and service buildings and \$20,000 to farm machinery and equipment.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Voluntary Agency coordinators have asked caseworkers assisting disaster victims to encourage their clients to register for assistance and to complete the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) application forms.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The incident period for FEMA-1279-DR-ND has been officially closed, with the end date set at July 19, 1999. The incident period began

March 1 for severe storms, tornadoes, snow, ice, flooding, ground saturation, mudslides and landslides impacting North Dakota. To be eligible for federal assistance as a result of this declaration, damages must have occurred within the incident period.

Staff from Crisis Counseling Program will meet on July 22 with crisis counselors from the Lutheran Rural Response to review plans for assisting disaster victims in the Fargo, Grand Forks and Jamestown areas. The Crisis Counseling Program is administered by the N.D. Department of Human Services through funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The state Department of Human Services will publish disaster assistance telephone numbers in field office newsletters.

The application period for the state/federal Public Assistance Program has been extended from July 8 to July 23 for the 34 counties and three Indian reservations originally included in the disaster declaration for FEMA-1279-DR-ND. August 6 is the Public Assistance application deadline for Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation and Burke, Divide, Sioux and Williams Counties, which were included in the first amendment to the disaster declaration dated July 6. The Public Assistance application deadline for those counties included in the second amendment, Cavalier, Eddy and Morton, has been set at August 27.

By July 20, after applicant withdrawal, the state-federal Public Assistance Program had received a total of 260 applications. Applicants include: 39 counties; 127 cities; 13 electrical cooperatives; 25 school districts; 11 park districts; 18 water resource boards; four Indian reservations; seven state agencies; and 16 others, including private non-profit organizations providing essential governmental services.

By July 20, North Dakota Job Service had received 3,547 claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. To date, \$851,401 in benefits has been paid to farmers, ranchers, farm workers, migrant workers and other self-employed individuals who lost income because of the disaster. The filing period for the first 34 counties ended July 21. Residents living in counties included in the first amendment period, Burke, Divide, Sioux and Williams, have until August 11 to apply for benefits and residents in counties included in the second amendment, Cavalier, Eddy and Morton, have until August 13.

To date, 5,776 North Dakotans have applied for Disaster Housing Assistance. To date, FEMA has paid \$4,499,801 million in benefits under the Disaster Housing Program.

The Individual and Family Grant Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has received 2,729 applications and approved \$159,892 in benefits. The average grant amounts to \$765.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has sent 4,700 applications to disaster victims and has administered \$1,659,900 in loans as of July 21.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Red Cross, consulting engineers and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: Correction -- From January 1 through June 30, precipitation totals in Grand Forks County totaled 14.03 inches compared to 11.83 during same time period in 1998. Situation Report #25 did not state that these numbers were year-to-date totals.

The next Devils Lake State Flood Coordination Center meeting has been scheduled for 1:30 p.m., July 22, at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room.

Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet Home page. The address is:  
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director